AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 13, lines 10-11, 18-19, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the regional contracts application. In general, the regional contracts application provides uniformity in terminology between all contractors. Each of the contractor work items (CWI) consequently are coded in the same manner, such as 101A for burying cable. The output of the regional contracts is provided to the bid and award application in generating bids for prospective contractors.

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the bid and award application. The bid and award application provides support in the contract itself, potential contractors with associated information, and some company parameter maintenance to administer the bidding and awarding of contracts. With regard to the contract itself, the bid and award application defines the contract and specific attributes or fixed variables about it. These attributes include such data as the geographical area that the contract covers and specific CWI codes associated with the contract.

On Page 16, lines 2-3, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the job entry application. The job entry application performs a configuration process that determines the type of work on a task or sub-step and assigns a resource. The configuration process also groups the work into logical groups called scheduling activities and then places the scheduling activities in a sequence based on the scheduling sequence codes. The configuration process establishes a date type such as start or completion dates, crew size, a priority, and completion date for the entire scheduling network based on user input or default time periods. The job entry application in performing the configuration process also establishes desired start and end dates on each scheduling activity using the critical path method (CPM).

On Page 17, lines 5-6, 16-17, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the pricing application. The pricing application associates prices with each sub-steps materials,

labor, engineering, and contractor resources. The pricing application provides a user with the ability to view reports on-line and to add miscellaneous costs that were not captured during the encoding process by the pricing application. These miscellaneous costs include miscellaneous material, retirement, labor, contractor, engineering, and other costs. The pricing application also provides various reports, such as a report on a detailed price for a job. The pricing application may also provide a detailed construction details report that allows a user to view a list of the pricing reports that have been run for a specific job.

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ Exhibits of this application for additional description of the scheduling application. The scheduling application also contains the ability to adjust information on scheduling networks. This information includes desired completion dates, crew size, resource groups and priorities. This information is used to establish CPM dates and prioritize the activities. The OSPCM system provides a user with the ability to move work tasks from one activity to another and to change the sequence of work by changing the activity dependencies. The user also has the ability to manually move work into or out of the schedule within week one or week two and can lock down work so that the scheduling process will ignore resource availability when scheduling the locked down activity. The scheduling application provides scheduling reports and graphs, including individual schedules for each resource group. The scheduling application creates a schedule for each resource group, such as a supervisor group, and contains work for 20 weeks. The scheduling application will not schedule work on a date that has passed and no work is scheduled in weeks beyond 20 weeks. The scheduling application preferably performs a batch process that runs on Saturday nights but can alternatively be run at the user's discretion. The scheduling application creates a priority list of scheduling activities based on adjusted CPM start and end dates, priorities, date types, and activity dependencies. The application adjusts the CPM dates so that when the scheduling process runs, no activity will be scheduled in the past. For example, if the application executes the scheduling process at night, then the earliest scheduled start date for any activity will be the next day.

On Page 20, lines 3-4, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ Exhibits of this application for additional description of the materials management application. The materials management application ensures that material requirements are met for all jobs. All new material is obtained through a real-time interface with the order master, which is the front-end interface to REGIS and CAPRI. All items with a product identifier are sent from the order master to REGIS to be fulfilled, preferably from within inventory. All non-product identified items are sent from the order master to CAPRI to be fulfilled by an outside vendor. The materials management application calculates the order date, identifies the requirements of today, orders material requirements, views an order, receives shipment details, receives ordered materials, sends receipt notification to CAPRI, and sets preferences.

On Page 24, lines 8-9, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ Exhibits of this application for additional description of the job entry other application. The job entry other application performs processes to automatically authorize and approve contractor work tasks. The work tasks are authorized if an individual logged on has the proper authority level. If a higher level is required, the job entry other application notifies the user and provides an ability for such approval. The job entry other application tracks completed work to ensure that continued correct approval levels are maintained throughout the process. The job entry other application creates tables to set the allowed dollar approval limits for each management level for the type of work in process. The job entry other application also calculates the estimated dollar values of the proposed work task and uses this value to determine if the individual has the correct approval level.

On Page 25, lines 1-11, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ Exhibits of this application for additional description of the billing and reporting application. In general, the billing and reporting application provides an interface to the contractors through which they can accept work orders and view their schedules so that they may complete the jobs to meet appropriate due dates. After the job is completed, the

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contractors indicate the job as completed through the billing and reporting application and initiate a payment process. The billing and reporting application compares the completed jobs against the stored design and routes discrepancies to supervisors or other appropriate personnel for approval. In the event that the supervisor does not approve of the job that the contractor indicated as being completed, the billing and reporting application provides interfaces to the contractor and to the supervisor to come to a resolution. The billing and reporting application works in conjunction with the inspections application to oversee the contractors.

On Page 26, lines 3-4, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the inspections application. The inspections application manages the inspection process of contractors and managers. The inspection application is involved in the following areas: inspection generation which may be either consensus or sample, reports, logging results, notification of failures, approvals, billing adjustments, management reporting, and contractor ratings.

On Page 27, lines 13-14, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the workstation application. In general, the workstation application provides an interface by which personnel within the company can enter their time and control their schedules. The personnel, for instance, can enter the time that they have worked as well as other time, such as vacation and training times. Through the workstation application, the personnel within a company also mark tasks as being completed. The information obtained from the workstation application is useful in dispersing time and materials promptly upon completion of tasks and in determining available resources. As discussed above, the scheduling application relies upon this type of data in scheduling jobs.

On Page 28, lines 3-4, please amend as follows:

Reference is made to the ~~Appendix~~ <u>Exhibits</u> of this application for additional description of the management reports application. The management reports application and the materials management application provide various reports on the OSPCM system and process. For instance, the management reports application provides an investment management report that provides an index measuring how efficiently inventory is managed. The index describes how much inventory was owned over a given period of time and how much it cost the company to own that inventory.

After Page 31, please amend as follows:

Insert Exhibit 1, Pages 1-53; Exhibit 2, Pages 1-487; and Exhibit 3, Pages 1-439.

Delete Appendix.